

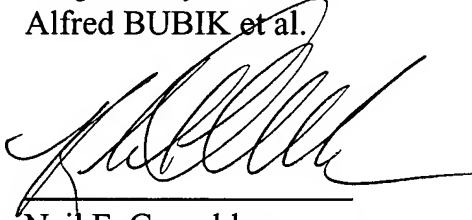
REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendments have been made in an effort to generally improve the form of the application and claims to comply with customary U.S. patent practice. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the instant amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims, and has not been made for any reason related to a statutory basis of patentability.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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April 18, 2002
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APPENDIX

Marked-Up Copies of the Amended Paragraphs:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 1 (between lines 3 and 6) with following headings, subheading, and new paragraph and amended paragraph:

---CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP01/04774 filed April 27, 2001, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of German Patent Application No. 100 21 320.0 filed May 2, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. **Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to a twin-wire former for producing a fibrous web, in particular a paper, board or tissue web, from a fibrous suspension [according to the preamble of claim 1]. The twin-wire former includes two endless wire belts arranged to form a twin-wire zone, in which, in a first section of the twin-wire zone, the two wire belts run over a dewatering element in the form of a rotating forming roll and together form a wedge-like inlet gap which picks up the fibrous stock suspension directly from a flowbox fitted at an angle relative to an imaginary first horizontal plane, and in which, in a second section of the twin-wire zone, the two wire belts with the fibrous web forming between them run downward over further dewatering elements at an angle (α) of 10° to 60° relative to an imaginary first vertical plane. At the end of the second section of the twin-wire zone, the two wire belts run over a first

deflection device with a lower vertex and then over at least one separating device which acts over the machine width and, in the area in which one of the wire belts is led away from the forming fibrous web and the other wire belt. A second deflection device with an upper vertex is arranged after the separating device to deflect the wire belt that carries the forming fibrous web.

2. Discussion of Background Information---

Please replace the first and second full paragraphs on page 2 (between lines 1 and 18) with the following heading and amended paragraphs:

---SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[It is therefore an object of the invention to improve] Therefore, the instant invention provides a twin-wire former of the type mentioned at the beginning in such a way that the overall height is reduced such that, during rebuilds, no significant additional costs (rebuilding costs, overhaul costs, operating costs) arise and that, at relatively high machine speeds, complete secondary dewatering is made possible.

In the case of a first twin-wire former of the type mentioned at the beginning, [this object is achieved, according to the invention, in that] after the first deflection device, the two wire belts run upward at an angle relative to an imaginary second horizontal plane, in that the upper vertex of the second deflection device is located above the lower vertex of the first deflection device, and in that the angle between the flowbox and the imaginary first

horizontal plane runs downward.---

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 3 (between lines 7 and 22) with the following amended paragraph:

---In the case of a second twin-wire former of the type mentioned at the beginning, [this object is achieved, according to the invention, in that] after the first deflection device, the two wire belts run upward at an angle relative to an imaginary second horizontal plane, in that a felt removes the forming fibrous web from the wire belt at a pickup point which is located above the lower vertex of the first deflection device, and in that the pickup point is followed by a press unit, in which the forming fibrous web is guided first through a first, preferably double-felted press nip with a first press roll and a second press roll, after the first press nip is guided, with one of the felts, around the first press roll, is then transferred to a non-felted press roll in a second press nip and then runs through at least one further single-side-felted press nip.---

Please replace the headings at the top of page 17 with the following:

---WHAT IS CLAIMED: [Twin-wire former
Claims]---